

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed April 6, 2007.

Reconsideration of this application in view of the below remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1– 5 and 7 – 18 are pending in the application with Claims 1 and 18 being in independent form.

I. Rejection of Claims 1 – 5 and 7 – 18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1 – 5 and 7 – 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0116298 (hereinafter, “Kamon”).

Claim 1 recites an automatic index making system for an electronic catalog, comprising an object input section configured to enter a three-dimensional image object which enables generation of at least two or more different images by setting a virtual view point to read an image; a generated image specification section configured to output specified information; a two-dimensional image generation section configured to electronically analyze the image object entered by the object input section, based on the specified information from the generated image specification section to generate a two-dimensional thumbnail image; an index data creation section configured to create index data by use of the two-dimensional thumbnail image generated by the two-dimensional image generation section; and an index output section configured to output an index by use of the index data created by the index data creation section, the index including the two-dimensional thumbnail image.

By virtue of the above structure, the present invention recited in Claim 1 provides specified information to a three-dimensional object; a two-dimensional thumbnail image is generated from the three-dimensional object based on the specified information; and index data is generated by using the two-dimensional thumbnail image.

With respect to the embodiments of the present invention, according to the specification, the specified information indicates that for example, a person's nose can be viewed, a chair stands upright, or a portable telephone is full-faced. In the present invention, an index including a two-dimensional image generated from a three-dimensional image object can be easily and automatically produced.

On the other hand, Kamon discloses an electronic catalog system, which comprises a server 11, a terminal apparatus 12 and a communication line 13, which connects the server 11 and the terminal apparatus 12 (see Fig. 1). The server 11 has a data storage part 112, which stores in advance simple image data (KGA) (e.g., two-dimensional thumbnail image), three-dimensional data (DTA) regarding products, and product information (DTQ). (See: paragraphs [0064] and [0065]). The three-dimensional data is obtained with three-dimensional measurement of the product by a three-dimensional input apparatus (11e) of the server 11 (see paragraph [0059]).

In the electronic catalog system of Kamon, catalog information, which comprises the simple image data (KGA) and the product information (DTQ) is downloaded by the terminal, and a catalog view containing images of a plurality of products is displayed. (See: paragraph [0070]). When the user selects a product in the catalog view, a three-dimensional image of the product is displayed by using the three-dimensional data (See: paragraph [0069]).

In such a manner, in the electronic catalog system of Kamon, the two-dimensional thumbnail image (KGB) and index data (catalog information) having the two-dimensional thumbnail image are both stored in advance in the data storage part 112 of the server 11. That is, Kamon discloses no structural elements corresponding to the recited two-dimensional image generation section configured to electronically analyze the image object entered by the object

input section, based on the specified information from the generated image specification section to generate a two-dimensional thumbnail image, and index data creation section configured to create index data by use of the two-dimensional thumbnail image generated by the two-dimensional image generation section.

It should be noted that Kamon discloses the simple image data (KGA, KGB) as images that provide the user with approximate shapes of the commercial products. This would suggest that the simple image data (KGA, KGB) is in fact generic images of commercial products, for example a generic chair or table, rather than an image of the specific commercial product. Hence the simple image data does not anticipate Applicants' generated two-dimensional thumbnail image, because the generated image is specific to the particular three-dimensional image object from which it is created.

Since no mention is made in Kamon regarding the generation of the simple image data (KGA, KGB), it follows that a two-dimensional image generation section configured to electronically analyze the image object entered by the object input section, based on the specified information from the generated image specification section to generate a two-dimensional thumbnail image is also not disclosed or suggested. In addition, product image (IMA) is not equivalent to Applicants' two-dimensional thumbnail image generated by the two-dimensional image generation section, because the product image (IMA) is not disclosed or suggested to be a thumbnail image.

Moreover, the Kamon-disclosed three-dimensional input apparatus, which acquires three-dimensional measurements does not anticipate Applicants' object input section configured to enter a three-dimensional image object which enables generation of at least two or more different images by setting a virtual view point to read an image. Specifically, three-dimensional

input apparatus of Kamon does not disclose or suggest setting a virtual viewpoint of any sort, and thus the two elements are not equivalent.

Also, the present invention as recited in the claims relates to an “automatic index making system”, which belongs to a technical field related to methods for generating an index. On the other hand, Kamon relates to an electronic catalog system, which is a technique in which three-dimensional data of a product is displayed along with a comparable object at the same time, so that the user can grasp the size of the product. In such a manner, the present invention as claimed is entirely different from Kamon in technical field, and is not anticipated thereby.

It is well-settled by the Courts that “[A]nticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim.” Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist and Derrick Company, et al., 730 F.2d 1452, 221 USPQ 481 (Fed. Cir., 1984).

Claim 18 recites, in method form, similar features as Claim 1, thus the above-provided reasons apply equally well to distinguish Claim 18 over the cited prior art reference. Additionally, since Claims 2 – 5 and 7 – 17 depend from independent Claim 1 and thus include all the features recited therein by that independent claim, Claims 2 – 5 and 7 – 17 are believed to be allowable over the cited prior art reference for at least the same reasons provided above.

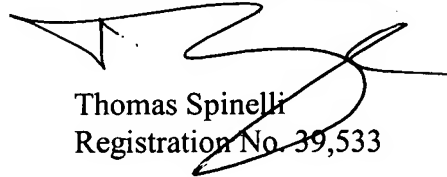
Therefore, as demonstrated above, because Kamon does not disclose each and every element recited in the present claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been obviated. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection with respect to Claims 1 – 5 and 7 – 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1 – 5 and 7 – 18 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Spinelli
Registration No. 39,533

SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY & PRESSER, P.C.
400 Garden City Plaza - Ste. 300
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343

TS:DAT:jam